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27 July 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Communist China: Communist China's initial response to the announcement of progress toward a test ban accord has been an attempt to project a tough image by implying that Peiping will join the nuclear club "soon."

In a speech on 26 July--the anniversary of the Korean armistice--Peiping's chief propagandist Kuo Mo-jo declared that no modern weapons are "out of reach of the people" and that the nuclear monopoly of a few powers "can by no means remain for long."

Asserting once again that men and not weapons are the key to victory in war, Kuo seeks to support Peiping's picture of the US as a "paper tiger" by pointing out that American forces were "beaten" in Korea in spite of an alleged US monopoly of nuclear weapons. These remarks appear designed to warn Peiping's neighbors that the Chinese are formidable opponents even without Russian backing, and that Chinese power is growing.

Kuo's remarks are in sharp contrast with Foreign Minister Chen Yi's public admission last November that despite strenuous efforts which had produced "considerable progress," China was still a long way--perhaps ten years--from having a bomb.

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The current US estimate, [redacted]

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[redacted] is that the earliest possible date for a test would be early 1964, with 1965 or 1966 being more likely. [redacted]

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Cuba: Recent statements by Cuban leaders suggest that they see little likelihood of improved relations with the US.

Fidel Castro stated in a 23 July interview with a UAR newsman that there had been "contacts" for the improvement of US-Cuban relations before his visit to the Soviet Union. However, he declared, "the US maintained its hostile policy against Cuba and thus hindered these contacts."

"Che" Guevara, in a 23 July press conference in Algeria, stated that he doubts Cuba's relations with the US can improve much. He said this was so primarily because "the US knows that as long as the Cuban revolution exists, the danger exists in Latin America because we are very close to them." According to a correspondent present at the press conference, Guevara made this statement reluctantly in response to a question on the Cuban attitude toward US-Cuban relations in the event of a US-Soviet detente.

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Switzerland: The Swiss Government apparently is considering long-range plans to acquire defensive nuclear weapons.

This appears to be the purport of a guarded speech, described by the US army attaché in Bern as a major policy address, delivered on 24 July by Swiss defense chief Paul Chaudet. According to the press, Chaudet said that the Swiss Federal Council "must devote attention" to research in the field of nuclear weapons "appropriate to the defensive mission" of Swiss forces.

Chaudet indicated that this would require long-range preparations, "in view of the procedures" for obtaining fissionable materials for military purposes. He also said that because of its defensive mission, the Swiss Army "could not" be equipped with strategic nuclear weapons "designed for mass destruction on foreign territory."

At present, Switzerland has a modest nuclear energy program devoted to basic research and the eventual development of nuclear power. It does not have the prerequisites for developing a nuclear weapons program.

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*Venezuela: The Communist-led, pro-Castro Armed Forces of Liberation (FALN) continues successfully to harass the Venezuelan Government despite the latter's efforts to end terrorism.

A government statement attributed the prison break of 25 July to the activities of Communist terrorists. Many of the estimated 84 armed escapees still at large may join FALN urban terrorists in Caracas.

On 25 June, an oil pipeline of the Mene Grande Oil Company was damaged by explosives, and three highway bridges were reportedly destroyed. Ambassador Stewart reported that these incidents and the prison break suggest coordinated action.

In addition, during the past few days the FALN "captured" two small towns in Falcon State where the army and air force have staged strong anti-guerrilla operations. [REDACTED]

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*Dominican Republic: President Juan Bosch has put through an emergency session of the Dominican Congress a law which in effect permits government confiscation of private property without compensation and without legal recourse.

Under the new law, passed on 25 July without public debate or hearings, Congress may seize the property of anyone declared guilty of having "illegally" profited from an official position at any time.

The US Embassy at Santo Domingo comments that the law violates a number of traditional legal principles, including the right of accused persons to be notified in advance, to offer defense, and to appeal judgment. The pretext for Bosch's new law was that existing legislation might permit relatives of the late dictator Trujillo to regain their confiscated properties through maneuvers in the courts.

The Congress' action was taken in an atmosphere of tension and public excitement drummed up by Bosch's party, the Dominican Revolutionary Party, and leaders of the extreme left. The embassy comments that the demonstration these elements conducted in the streets while the bill was being passed made it appear rightly or wrongly that the government and the Revolutionary Party are now allied with the extreme left.

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Congo: Tshombé, who is now in Spain, is seeking a reconciliation with Premier Adoula and hopes to return to the Congo soon. The former Katangan leader fled to France in mid-June when he feared that the capture of some incriminating documents might bring his arrest. Leopoldville's suspicion of him remains high, however, and Adoula may not give the guarantee against prosecution that Tshombé seeks.

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Iran: The influx of nearly 6,000 refugees from Iraq appears to be posing a growing logistical and security problem to Tehran. The Iranian Government plans to remove most of them, who are mainly Kurds, from the sensitive border region to prevent political activity among Iranian Kurds. Iranian authorities suspect that many are Communists or supporters of the former Qasim regime, however, who will probably be sent back to Iraq.

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